

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
EASTERN DIVISION**

JONATHAN ATHA,

Plaintiff,

V.

CORE CIVIC, ET AL.

Defendants.

No. 23-cv-1240-SHM-tmp

**ORDER DIRECTING PLAINTIFF TO COMPLY WITH
28 U.S.C. § 1915(A)(1)-(2) OR PAY THE ENTIRE CIVIL FILING FEE**

On November 3, 2023, Plaintiff Jonathan Atha, Tennessee Department of Correction prisoner number 480588, who is incarcerated at the Hardeman County Correctional Facility in Whiteville, Tennessee, filed a *pro se* complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. (ECF No. 1.) Plaintiff neglected to either pay the civil filing fee or submit a properly completed application to proceed *in forma pauperis* and a copy of his trust account statement for the last six months as required by 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)-(b).

Under the Prison Litigation Reform Act (“PLRA”), 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(a)-(b), a prisoner bringing a civil action must pay the filing fee required by 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a).¹ Although the obligation to pay the fee accrues at the moment the case is filed, *see McGore v. Wrigglesworth*, 114 F.3d 601, 605 (6th Cir. 1997), *partially overruled on other grounds by LaFountain v. Harry*, 716 F.3d 944, 951 (6th Cir. 2013), the PLRA provides the prisoner the opportunity to make a “down payment” of a partial filing fee and pay the remainder in installments. *Id.* at 604.

¹The civil filing fee is \$350. 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a). The Schedule of Fees set out following the statute also requires an additional administrative fee of \$52 for filing any civil case before November 30, 2023. **The additional administrative fee increases to \$55 beginning December 1, 2023.** That additional fee will not apply if leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* is ultimately granted.

However, in order to take advantage of the installment procedures, the prisoner must properly complete and submit to the district court, along with the complaint, an *in forma pauperis* affidavit and a certified copy of his inmate trust account statement for the last six months. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2).

Therefore, the Plaintiff is ORDERED to submit, within 30 days after the date of this order, either the entire civil filing fee or a properly completed and executed application to proceed *in forma pauperis* and a copy of his trust fund account statement. The entire civil filing fee would be \$402 until November 30, 2023, and \$405 starting December 1, 2023. The Clerk is directed to mail Plaintiff a copy of the prisoner *in forma pauperis* affidavit form along with this order. If Plaintiff needs additional time to submit the affidavit, he may, within 30 days after the date of this order, file a motion for extension of time. The undersigned is entering this order pursuant to Administrative Order 2023-30.

If Plaintiff timely submits the necessary documents and the Court finds that he is indeed indigent, the Court will grant leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* and assess only a \$350 filing fee in accordance with the installment procedure of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b). However, if Plaintiff fails to comply with this order in a timely manner, the Court will deny leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*, assess the entire filing fee of \$402, which increases to \$405 starting December 1, 2023, from his inmate trust account without regard to the installment payment procedures, and dismiss the action without further notice for failure to prosecute pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b). *McGore*, 114 F.3d at 605.²

IT IS SO ORDERED, this 16th day of November, 2023.

s/Tu M. Pham

TU M. PHAM

CHIEF UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

²Even a voluntary dismissal by Plaintiff will not eliminate the obligation to pay the filing fee. *McGore*, 114 F.3d at 607; *see also In re Alea*, 286 F.3d 378, 381 (6th Cir. 2002).